POMPEJUS et al. Serial No. 09/582,779

CLEAN VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

Claims 1, 2 and 10 should read as follows:

- 1. (amended) An orotidine-5'-phosphate decarboxylase gene having the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1 or its homologs isolated from microorganisms which have at least 80% homology with the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1.
- 2. (amended) An orotidine-5'-phosphate decarboxylase gene having the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1 or its homologs are isolated from Ashbya gossypii.
- 10. (twice amended) A process for inserting DNA into microorganisms, which comprises inserting a vector which comprises an intact orotidine-5'-phosphate decarboxylase gene having the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1 or its homologs isolated from microorganisms which have at least 80% homology with the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1 as claimed in claim 1 together with at least one other nucleic acid sequence, into a microorganism which is deficient in orotidine-5'-phosphate decarboxylase nucleic acid/sequence having the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1 or its homologs as claimed in claim 1 together with at least one other nucleic acid sequence, into a microorganism which is deficient in orotidine-5'-phosphate decarboxylase nucleic acid sequences, and cultivating this microorganism on or in a culture medium without uracil.